

Ida C. Thomas

HISTORY OF FREDERICK CROOK, WRITTEN BY HIS OWN HAND, DATED MARCH 26, 1938)
(Typed by J. Ernest Crook)

(Ida C. Thomas - My Father)

A history of Frederick Crook, son of John & Mary Giles Crook, born Aug. 17, 1869 at Heber City, Wasatch County, Utah. My parents were natives of England & came to this country for the Gospel's sake having been converted by missionaries in the old country.

My father & his father Dan Crook came as far as Council Bluffs which was an outfitting place where people prepared to cross the plains. While awaiting for opportunity to get to Utah, having been denied the privilege one or twice in different companies, Dan Crook died. Father thinks ~~MY~~ disappointment in not getting to come to Utah in these first companies was the cause of his death. (John Crook, son of Dan said "Father died of a broken Heart") He was buried in Council Bluffs.

Father stayed in Council Bluffs two years working for a living. While in Council Bluffs he got acquainted with the Giles-family and crossed the plains in Captain Duncan company. On arrival in Utah, father with the Giles family located in Provo, Utah County, Utah, where he married Mary Giles, daughter of William & Sarah Huskinson Giles. Thus commences the Crook family in Utah. I being the next to the youngest child & the eighth in order of birth. Having been born of goodly parents August 17th, 1869, a descendant of Joseph through Ephraim (according to my patriarchal blessing which will follow) I was born in Heber in a log house in or near the old fort which was built for the protection of the people against the Indians, a troublesome triye in those days.

My childhood days were spent much as other children of those days. My earliest recollection was when I was promoted from a sissy to a real boy in waist & pants, having worn skirts as was the custom in those days.

My father and mother were of a social nature and many social gatherings were held in our home. As I remember, father was at one time chior leader and manager of a local Dramatic Company and I was privileged to have a minor part in many performances that were held in the old Hall, a combination building for entertainment and Church.

As farming was the family vocation I had experience in Pioneer farming such as plowing with ox team and hand plow, reaping with combination mower and grain harvester which was attached to a mower by adding a real and dropper and binding with straw bands by hand. Also following the mower when cutting hay by hand rake. When the hay was dry enough to rake I would rake the first swath on to the second then Thomas H. would rake my swath and his onto the 3rd swath then came Heber G and John W. with our swath and one more. This operation made a good sized windrow, then it was bunched by hand, hauled by hand and thrown in mow or stack by hand.

The cutting of grain was first done by cradle then later adding a real and drop board to the mower and when sufficient grain was gathered for a bundle it was dropped, men followed and tied the bundles with straw bands throwing them out of the machines' way for the next round or swath. Then came the self rake, then the self binder with wire bands then came twin bands, next the header then the combine, cutting and threshing with the same operation. Thus I have seen the reformation of farming from the ox team to the tractor and trailer, we own a tractor and combine at present.

In transportation I have seen freight handled by ox team, then came the horse, the railroad, automobile and airplane.

As a boy I was interested in playing ball and other sports, being captain of the Red Stockings, a local baseball team.

When I was 6 weeks old I was blessed by Thomas H. Giles my mother's brother. I was fully 12 years old when baptized at a public baptism usually held in some running stream. I was baptized by John McDonald August 22 1881 and confirmed August 22, 1881

by Thomas Todd and re-baptized November 9 1883 by James H. Moulton and confirmed November 9, 1883 by Frederick Giles. Sorry I haven't the record of my lesser Priesthood ordinations. I was a deacon and president of one of the quorums in the Heber 2nd Ward. I must have been a Teacher (ordained) for I remember going teaching with such men as Henry L. McMullen and others. I don't think I ever held the office of Priest. I was always a Sunday School and meeting goer, due, I think mostly to the influence of my sainted mother. I attended the district school, the church seminary under Enoch Jorgenson and Orvis J. Call. Here at this School I met for the first time Minnie M. Lindsay. After a couple of years of courtship we were married by Thomas H. Giles (Elder) February 22, 1893 in Pride's Hall at Center Creek, the home of my wife, a public dinner was served and guests came by invitation, a large crowd was at the reception. My father thought it would have been much better had we gone to the temple, but my wife wasn't a baptized member at the time, but she was baptized April 14, 1893 by Orson Hicken, confirmed a member April 14, 1893 by John Duke (who also ordained me an elder June 24, 1893) and in June we went to the Salt Lake Temple and were sealed by John R. Winder June 28, 1893.

Early in the spring of 1886 my mother had a stroke effecting her limbs and speech, she scarcely spoke an audible word nor walked a step from April to September 13, 1888, and was buried in the Heber cemetery, she was 55 years old.

My father being a widower and having a large house asked my wife and I to come and occupy part of his home. We accepted the invitation and moved in a few days after we were married. We continued to live there for 17 years.

My brother John W. and I stayed with the farm, as long as father was able he helped us but he retired and left the farm in our hands. We also had a stone quarry and worked there when we had orders for stone. The quarry was red sandstone located at the mouth of Lake Creek, 5 1/2 miles east of Heber. The orders usually consisted of dimension flag stone and building stone. Many substantial homes and public buildings are in evidence in Heber built of this stone. The stake house, the Bank Block, amusement Hall and other buildings were built from this sand stone, which hardens when exposed to the sun and weather, therefore makes an ever lasting home or edifice. I spent much of my time working at the quarry and hauling the stone to Heber, Provo and Salt Lake by team. After the railroad came we shipped rock to Salt Lake City.

On one occasion we hired J. M. Duke (Uncle Dick) to go with me to work in the quarry. Some time in the afternoon we were working on a ledge of rock using crowbars to dislodge the stone. My bar slipped and I rolled down the ledge, spraining both wrists and one leg so we were late getting home, Dick having to do all the work of loading and driving home. We were late getting home and we each had Scotch Wives.

From 1893 ^Tto 1899 the routine of work on the farm and quarry continued as usual. During this period three children were born to us, Velma, born 14 December 1893; Lindsay Watson born 7 August 1896 and John Floyd 4 July 1898.

It was during 1898 and 1899 that the railroad was built through Provo canyon to Heber. The first engine came to Heber in September 1899. We were threshing at Jessie Nelsons, close to the track when the crew of railroad men came along laying the ~~main~~ rails, followed close by the work train. It frightened the 5 teams hitched to the horse power (thresher) and they began to pick up speed and threatened a run away but a man grabbed the bits of each team and ~~directed~~ the horses and thus prevented a bad smash up.

About this time I received a letter from Box 'B', a call to go on a mission to the Northern States with Chicago as headquarters. I obtained a job on the railroad for a month or so to help finance me while in the mission field. Elder E. J. Duke had a call at the same time to the same mission and our farewell testimonials were conjoint. We received a liberal donation and a fine program was had. Many friends

Our ticket to Chicago cost \$21.25 each, supplies, including clothing cost \$44.40. We left Salt Lake 8 February 1900 for Chicago at 8:05 P.M. After a delay of 11 hours at Thistle Junction, on account of a wreck ahead, we resumed our journey, arriving in Chicago at 8:45 A.M. 12 February 1900.

We went to mission headquarters and received instructions from Lewis A. Kelsch, mission president. I was assigned to Red Oak, Iowa. After sight seeing for 2 or 3 days we left Chicago for our fields of labor. Brother E. J. Duke stopped at Ottumwa, I proceeded to Red Oak, Iowa, arriving at 1:45 P.M. on the 15th.

(Here the history repeats from the call to a mission)(apparently written later)

Having been call to take a mission to the Northern states, Elisha J. Duke was called at the same time to the same mission. The farewell testimonials were held conjointly and we left Heber 6 February 1900 over the newly made R.G. W. Railroad. We were the first missionaries to leave Heber on the Railroad. We reported at Salt Lake City presiden's headquarters. We were set apart for our mission and ordained Seventies. I was ordained by Seymour B. Young 7 February 1900. Bought our tickets to Chicago \$21.25 over the D and R.G. and Missouri Pacific, arrived in Chicago 8:45 A.M. at headquarters 12 February 1900. Lewis A. Kelsch president of the Northern States Mission assigned me to the Iowa Conference. E. J. Duke to Ottumwa. Iowa. We accompanied each other to Ottumwa over C. B. & Q. R. R. where Elder Duke got off and I continued to Red Oak, Iowa my first missionary companion. For further reference consult my diary # 1 for daily record. See Diary # 1 for detail labor. April 16th was transferred to Council Bluffs with Nephi Ottesson as my companion. While at Council Bluffs we visited with the Nebraska Elders at Omaha where I met many Elders from Utah, Elder Dickson, father of Albert Dickson was one of the Elders, we later became more intimate. While here I visited relatives on my fathers mothers side, the Kays. See diary book #2.

February 2, 1901 I was assigned to labor in Des Moines, Iowa Conference, later I was made president of the conference to succeed A. M. Hansen. Des Moines became the headquarters of the Iowa Conference. From here I labored, taking many side trips in the interest of the Northern States Mission and Iowa Conference. See diary Book #2 & 3.

My experiences while on my 26 months mission were numerous and faith promoting, & for daily record see diary books # 1 - 2 - 3 & 4, book #4 & 5 contains diary after I was released which notice of release to occur about April 1, 1902. An honorable release came after I had arrived home, signed by Ashel H. Woodruff, president of the Northern States Mission.

Brother E. J. Duke and I came home, as we went away, together. We arrived in Salt Lake City in time for Annual Conference, April 4, 1902.

The year after I returned from my mission was uneventful, farming was may occupation. I was called to be a teacher in the Sunday School, word of wisdom seemed to be the main objective. I remember a report from the superintendent stated 98% of the members kept the word of wisdom XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX THE OTHER XX

the other 2% that did not keep it were among the officers or teachers.

The Sunday School was composed of pupils from the Heber East and Heber West ward who met conjointly as one Sunday School.

At an April conference of The Wasatch Stake held February 7, 1903 it was decided to divide Heber City into 3 wards. President William H. Smart who was sustained as president of the Wasatch Stake while I was on my mission, was in charge. Mathias F. Cowley was the Appostle present. The bishops were chosen and sustained as follows: Robert Duke as bushop of the Heber First retained, Joseph A. Rasband sustained as bishop of the Heber Second Ward and Frederick Crook as bishops of the Heber third Ward. We were all ordained and set apart by Mathias F. Cowley as bishops of the various wards. The auxiliaries officers were chosen and set apart as occasion required.

The First Ward was separated from the Second Ward by Main Street south to Second south Street, thence east to city limits. The Second Ward was west of Main Street to third south thence west to city limits. The Third Ward all that portion of the city south of second south to Main Street thence south thence west to the city limits.

At the time of the division of the wards there were about 140 families of 450 members in the Heber Third Ward. During the 28 years of my administration as Bishop the ward had more than doubled its membership. I am very grateful for the loyal support the Saints gave me during my 28 years as Bishop. I wouldn't dare to mention anyone or more individuals or organizations that was outstanding, for it seems to me we were all of one faith working for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. For historical data see the ward records from 1903 to 1931 when the ward was reorganized with Walter Montgomery Bishop, Irwin T. Hicken and Ralph Giles as counselors.

About five years later Bishop Montgomery was released and Ralph F. Giles was made Bishop with Erwin T. Hicken and Linden Chapman as counselors. All these brethren were born, ordained to the Priesthood and went on missions during my administration as bishop, except Erwin T. Hicken who was only about 3 years old when the ward was divided.

My hard of hearing was the main cause of my asking to be released as Bishop. I was ordained Bishop on the 8th of February 1903 and was released February 8th 1931, exactly 28 years of service.

I here want to express my appreciation for the loyalty of my beloved and faithful wife who was ever by my side to help me in the services of the Lord, "A man is not without the woman in the Lord." I also appreciate the support of my children and grand children. My wife reared 11 children of her own and partly reared three boys of Paul's and Velma's. We have at present 9 living children 2 having past to the great Beyond, 18 grand children and 3 great grand children at the end of 50 years of married life.

During the time of administering as Bishop I was busily engaged in farming and stock raising. We had a few caos and range stock. In 1908 I went into partnership with mybrothers Heber and Thomas in the sheep business we ran about 3500 ewes, I think our forest permit at this time was 2600, the permit was located in what was called Big Red creek on the Uintah National Forest. We sold our sheep and land interest to some Frenchmen at a good price. The land we had was procured during the opening of the Indian reservation to grazing. Paying so much an acre for it, some of it was bought cheap and some was run upby competitive bidders.

A little later I was induced to go into partnership with my brother-in-law, Eugene P. Brown in the sheep business, we remained in the sheep business, we remained in business until 1941 when we sold our interest in sheep and land to J. T. Crook & Company, closing the Crook & Brown business as a partnership.

I have always favored farming and still run some land as a farmer.

I was Heber City Councilman for two terms. Ran for Mayor and was defeated by Bishop Rasband. In 1919 I was elected to represent wasatch County in the state legislature, which position I held for three terms.

I was a member of the School Board when consolidation was put over in the county, which position I held for two or three terms. I was one of the directors of the Strawberry Grazing Company, the company to my knowledge has never been disorganized to date, there is still a need of closing this business as the company still has assets.

I was a director of the Wasatch Irrigation Company for three terms. I was president of the Wasatch County Farm Bureau for a number of years and helped foster the beet and pea industry in the county. The Beet industry had a hard struggle in the county and finally gave way in favor of the pea business which proved to be a growing industry.

I have always been interested in better methods of farming and stock raising, in seed improvement, purer breeding of cattle and horses..

I am with the government in favoring production of more milk and eggs for the country.

I was sustained as High Priest class leader, about this time, the Welfare movement was inaugurated in the Church, we took part in the Program and are still contributing to the Welfare movement.

I was later sustained as teacher of the High Priests class of the Heber Fourth Ward, which ward was organized some two years ago with L. Linden Chapman as Bishop. I am still class teacher, December 1948.

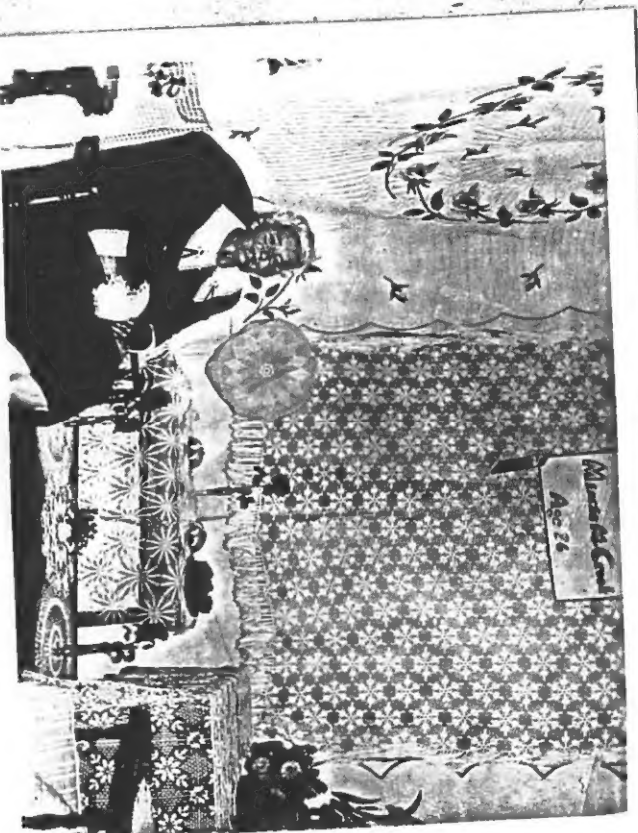
Our Arizona Trip

Minnie M. and I left Heber at 1 p.m. February 7, 1930 on the Bus. The Bus left Salt Lake about 5 p.m. It went by way of Provo, Manti, Richfield, Panguitch, Kanab and Jacobs Lake. We crossed the Colorado River on the new bridge. The chauffeur stopped the bus on the bridge, and we got out to see the river, 485 feet below. The chauffeur was prepared with rocks to drop to the water below. I judge it took 30 seconds before we heard the thud or sound of the rock when it hit the water of the river below. From here we went over the Arizona Desert to Flagstaff, some 182 miles. From here we went by way of Cottonwood, Clarkdale, and Jarome. This town is built on the side of the mountain with houses and streets one above the other for some distance, we zigzagged back and forth till we got to the top of this high mountain (in the Bus). From here we went to Prescott then by way of Wickerburg to Phoenix to Mesa.

Found Don and Fred well, Irene fair, as her broken body would allow, she had one sick spell about a week after we arrived. She suffers a plenty from arthritis, but over comes much of it through faith. We enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere, the balmy air of spring, a nice rain fell, refreshing the vegetation which was hit hard by a frost a few nights before our arrival injuring the fruit trees, turning the leaves brown and injuring the fruit considerable, lemons and oranges dropping because of the frost. It was 27°, or 5° below freezing.

Don took us around the country side and we saw many historic places, among others was camp Williams, an Air Post where ~~planes~~ were in the air continually. The Temple was one of the objects of our coming, we have have recommends to go through the Temple.

Frederick Crook



Minnie M. Crook, age 86, Heber City, Utah, with a display of her work. All of this display was made in the last 2 years. In the last few years she has completed 7 applique quilts, 6 tablecloths, 4 bedspreads, and a countless number of dainty handkerchiefs and dollies which have been given to friends and relatives.

She has had entries of flowers or handwork in the Wasatch County Fair every year since it's beginning, winning ribbons on most entries. During the Wasatch County Centennial in 1959, she was chosen "Queen of Yesteryear," being a daughter of one of the valley's early pioneers.

Sister Crook was a bishop's wife for 28 years and worked in the Primary and in the Relief Society Presidency for 19 years. She was Captain of the Camp No. 6 of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers for three terms, besides raising a family of 11 children and 3 orphaned grandchildren. She has 35 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren, and 1 great great grandchild.

Her lovely big home has been open to everyone, friend and stranger, young and old.

She has been a visiting teacher most of her life and is still acting in that capacity. She is indeed an example of a true Latter-Day Saint mother and Relief Society member.

(This article was written to be put in the Relief Society Magazine along with the picture. By the time it arrived, the magazine had had to discontinue this practice because of an over supply.)



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There's been a heap of joy and pleasure
In the fifty years gone by,
With loves fire glowing in the shadows,
Storms and sunshine in the sky.
Of course there's been a lot of sorrow
Mixed with the pleasure too,
But our love has braved the dangers
And our dreams have most come true.

We've got a heap of young uns round us,
And we're as happy as can be
For they are ours to love and cherish
Through all eternity.
We have faith in Christ our Savior
And God's plan, the Gospel Way.
What more could we be askin'
On this, our Golden Wedding Day?

Written for Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Crook -- by Harold E. Hall

Frederick Crook